

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On May 9, 2019 the Secretary General of the United Nations Organization appointed Sarkin Kano Muhammad Sanusi II as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Advocates. The Press Release of the Office of the Secretary General outlines the role of these 17 Eminent Persons.



The principles at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are also what drive the new class of SDG Advocates, appointed today by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. These 17 influential public figures are committed to raising awareness, inspiring greater ambition, and pushing for faster action on the SDGs, which were adopted by world leaders on 25 September 2015.

United Nations Member States agreed to accomplish the SDGs by 2030. To build the momentum for transformative, inclusive development by 2030, the Secretary-General's SDG Advocates will use their unique platforms and leadership to inspire cross-cutting mobilization of the global community. "We have the tools to answer the questions posed by climate change, environmental pressure, poverty

and inequality. They lie in the great agreements of 2015 – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

But tools are no use if you don't use them. So, today, and every day, my appeal is clear and simple. We need action, ambition and political will. More action, more ambition and more political will,” said the Secretary-General.



The Secretary-General has tasked the Advocates with driving that action, building that ambition, and solidifying global political will.

The Advocates represent the universal character of the SDGs, hailing from Governments, entertainment, academia, sport, business and activist organizations around the world. The Advocates will leverage and build bridges between their unique audiences, and work together to drive progress.

“By joining forces to achieve our goals, we can turn hope into reality – leaving no one behind,” said Co-Chair of the SDG Advocates group Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway.

Said Co-Chair of the SDG Advocates and President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, “This is a time of great hope for the world. If we work smartly together and stay on course, we can raise millions out of poverty and significantly expand basic social services for many more by the 2030 end date of the SDGs.”

The Secretary-General has appointed some members of the previous class of SDG Advocates as SDG Advocate Alumni, and looks forward to their ongoing support and engagement. For more information, please visit www.unsdgadvocates.org.



The Secretary-General's SDG Advocates are:

Co-Chairs:

His Excellency Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana (Republic of Ghana)
Her Excellency Ms. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway (Kingdom of Norway)

Members:

- Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of the Belgians (Kingdom of Belgium)
- His Royal Highness Muhammadu Sanusi II, Emir of Kano (Federal Republic of Nigeria)
- Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Founder, Education Above All Foundation (State of Qatar)
- Mr. Richard Curtis, Screenwriter, Producer and Film Director (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
- Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Activist, Environment and Indigenous Rights (Republic of Chad)
- Mr. Jack Ma, Founder and Executive Chairman, Alibaba Group (People's Republic of China)
- Mrs. Graça Machel, Founder, Graça Machel Trust (Republic of Mozambique)
- Ms. Dia Mirza, Actress and Film Producer, UN Environment Program Goodwill Ambassador for India (Republic of India)
- Dr. Alaa Murabit, Founder, The Voice of Libyan Women (Canada)
- Ms. Nadia Murad, Nobel Laureate, Chair and President, Nadia's Initiative, UN Ogce on Drugs and Crime Goodwill Ambassador (Republic of Iraq)
- Mr. Edward Ndopu, Founder, Global Strategies on Inclusive Education (Republic of South Africa)
- Mr. Paul Polman, Chair, International Chamber of Commerce, Vice-Chair of the Board of United Nations Global Compact (Kingdom of the Netherlands)
- Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University (United States of America)
- Ms. Marta Vieira da Silva, Footballer, Orlando Pride, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador (Federative Republic of Brazil)
- Mr. Forest Whitaker, Founder and Chief Executive Ogcer, Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation (United States of America)
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The Secretary-General's SDG Advocate Alumni are:

- Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden (Kingdom of Sweden)
- Ambassador Dho Young-Shim, Chairperson, United Nations World Tourism Organisation's Sustainable Tourism for Eliminating Poverty Foundation (Republic of Korea)
- Ms. Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Laureate, Founder, Gbowee Peace Foundation (Republic of Liberia)
- Ms. Shakira Mebarak, Founder, Pies Descalzos Foundation (Republic of Colombia)
- Mr. Lionel Andrés Messi Cuccittini, Founder, Leo Messi Foundation (Argentine Republic)
- Mr. Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Laureate, Founder, Grameen Bank (People's Republic of Bangladesh)



His Highness was awarded various doctorate degrees by among others the following Universities: -

- University of Nsukka
- Bayero University Kano
- University of Jos
- University of Benin
- University of Maiduguri
- Benue State University
- University of Abuja
- Oduduwa University, Ile - Ife
- Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil

In the course of his carrier as banker, His Highness received various awards including: -

- Central Bank of Nigeria Governor of the year for Sub-Saharan Africa by the Emerging Market Magazine for the years 2010, 2011 and 2013
- Central Bank Governor of Africa 2013 by the African Banker Magazine
- African Central Bank Governor of the year 2011 by Banker Magazine
- Global Central Bank Governor of the year 2011by Financial Times of London
- His Highness was also made Man of the Year by various magazines and newspapers 2010, 2011 and 2013
- His Highness was also awarded the National Honor of the Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON)



Public Intellectual

Sarkin Kano Muhammad Sanusi II was a public intellectual before his appointment as the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria. This is because he spoke and wrote “about important social and political matters” and he communicated in most of his writings the “theoretic base for resolving public problems” (Wikipedia at www.wikipedia.org). He contributed to public debate using his knowledge and intelligence.

He was original thinker on several national issues in the public domain. This earned him respect and recognition from various scholarly organizations and forums he has published in books edited by reputable scholars for example Soares and Otayek (2007), Ostein et al (2005) and Ibrahim (2004). He presented papers at various international gatherings of scholars, more than most conventional academics. One of the most prestigious and comprehensive website on Islam,

www.uga.edu/islam with over 7000 links founded by Professor Alan Godlas and sponsored by the Department of Religion University of Georgia has described Sanusi Lamido Sanusi as a foremost Muslim Thinker in Nigeria and the site has links to his writings in www.gamji.com and www.nigerdeltacongress.com.

He wrote extensively on matters relating to Islam and Shari'ah in Nigeria, Nigerian Politics and even History. As a trained social scientist and Islamic Lawyer (person who has acquired knowledge of the Shari'ah) he used skill to marshal his arguments against any conventional position. Even in history he challenged a Professor and in the end the Professor who attempted to ridicule Sarkin Musulmi Muhammad Bello by equating the Jihad against Borno with the American invasion of Iraq was himself ridiculed. He wrote in *Al-Kanemi Before Danfodio's Court: Sultan Bello's response to Kyari Tijjani*:

The final flaw in Tijjani's thesis was that he did not tell his readers if the views held by Al-Kanemi on the illegitimacy of rebellion against unjust rulers remained his view even after the debate with Sokoto. Professor Ahmad Kani tells us in his book, *Al- Jihad al-Islami fi Gharb Afriqiya* (p 93) that Al-Kanemi organized a military coup that brought to an end about ten centuries of the Kanem empire.



El-Kanemi accused the Jihad leaders of greed for attacking Borno but he also attacked parts of the Sokoto Caliphate hence Sanusi asked:

Shall we presume that Shehu Laminu of Borno was himself driven by personal greed for power into an unjust rebellion against a Muslim leader and an alliance with "mercenaries"? Or is it rather possible that he lost the argument and, convinced of his duty to do in Borno what the Fulani scholars did in Hausaland he finally rose to the challenge and abandoned his previous position? We must find a rational explanation for the sudden change from the drumbeats of war to a prothalamion heralding new love.

He concluded that:

In the final analysis Shehu Laminu himself is reported to have overthrown his patrons, made peace (albeit a shaky one) with Sokoto and forged an alliance with Sultan Bello. Although the Fulani had not succeeded in conquering Borno, they were instrumental to this in-house revolution, which led to the reforms of the system and the establishment of an Islamic state run on the same basis as Sokoto. To rely on Shehu Laminu's early views in a contemporary article is to distort his final message and deny his later views, thus placing a stamp of illegitimacy on his own later political life, which effectively copied the moves of the Dan Fodios. As the saying goes, "always remember when you point a finger at someone that three of your fingers are pointed back at you."

Any one who has some knowledge of the Shari'ah and social sciences and reads Sanusi's essays on the Shari'ah will confirm that he has "multi-disciplinary erudition". Some of his

essays have been published after peer review, an indication of academic competence.

The Dilemma of the Public Intellectual

Since becoming the Emir, Sanusi has faced many criticisms as a result of his public utterances, some believe as a monarch he should not be outspoken because it is against the Kano Royal Tradition. Mannir Dan Ali notes:

"Many suggest the emir is in this predicament because he has defied a tradition that dictates that part of his turban covers his mouth so that courtiers speak on his behalf.

However, unlike his predecessors, this emir has been seen and very much heard. He has not shied away from public comments and has criticised the government, which has put him on a collision course with political office holders"

(<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-48557170>)".

Many take this position because according to them the late Emir Alhaji Ado Bayero spoke less and they believe that earned him more respect. It is a fact that Emir Sanusi has criticized both the Federal and State Governments this earned him more enemies than friends in the government circles. He was one of the most influential critics of the Jonathan Administration and he contributed to its defeat in 2015 General Elections paving way for the current APC Administration in the country.

Sanusi's troubles with the APC Government of Kano State perhaps reached the climax when he public criticized the Government's plan to construct \$1.8 billion Light Rail in Kano Metropolitan. As an economist and the best Central Bank Governor in Nigeria's Sanusi has the authority to appraise the project and judge it as economically viable or disaster. That was what he did. He declared it unsustainable. The Kano State Governor was unhappy.

Not long after that in 2017 there was widespread tension because of the rumors that the government was planning to remove the Emir. This was after the commencement of a probe by the state's anti-corruption agency. A truce was brokered largely because of the Emir's influence outside the state. The probe and the attempt to

remove the Emir were suspended. This did not silence Emir Sanusi as he continued to state his positions whenever he had the opportunity.

General Elections were held in 2019. APC supporters alleged that Emir Sanusi supported the PDP a party he opposed in 2015 to the pleasure of the APC. Governor Ganduje narrowly won the election Dan Ali narrates:

“The first sign that relations between the state government and the emirate were at an all-time low came shortly after Mr Ganduje's re-election earlier this year.

A video began circulating on social media showing a crowd in Kano Government House forcefully removing a portrait of the emir and tearing it to pieces.

This happened just a few metres from the grand hall, which was specially built in June 2014 for the emir's coronation.

Mr Ganduje narrowly won a second term in office - in fact the race was so tight it had to be re-run in some areas in March and his rival is challenging the result in court.

Now, the governor wants to settle scores with those he believes opposed his re-election. The emir is top of his list”.

Just before the second inauguration of Governor Ganduje the State House of Assembly hurriedly passed a bill splitting Kano Emirate into five. The state anti-corruption renewed its probe of the Kano Emirate Council. The Governor's media team became robust with serious campaigns in the local radio stations against the Emir and in support of the new Emirates. A member of the Kano State House of Assembly went to court challenging the new Emirate Law. The Kano Emirate Kingmakers also went to court to challenge the Law. Both cases are now pending.

The state anti-corruption agency invited some officials of the Kano Emirate Council and later obtained an order from Chief Magistrate Court for them to appear before it. The officials on the other hand obtained an order from a High Court restraining the agency. The case is still in court. The agency did not stop there it made public its interim report in which it recommended the suspension of the Emir. There were rumors that the Government will suspend the Emir. The Government decided to cancel the Sallah Activities that included Emir's visit to the Governor and Durbar Procession in the city. The Government issued a query to the Emir

demanding a reply in forty-eight hours. Dan Ali writes:

“The governor may have decided to make the report public to detract from corruption allegations that have been levelled at him after videos circulated appearing to show him shoving fistfuls of high-denomination dollars into the pocket of his voluminous robes.

Mr Ganduje denied collecting bribes from contractors and said the recordings were faked. A state assembly investigation was later stopped by a court order sought by the governor, who is also suing for defamation.

Emirs have been forced to resign in the past, but the current tension prompted the state government to cancel last week's durbar, a three-day horse parade held to mark the Eid al-Fitr celebration for the end of the fasting month of Ramadan”.

There was widespread tension and various newspaper headlines on the crisis as a Sanusi is a major public figure in Nigeria. There were calls for interventions. While this was going on the Emir replied the query within the time demanded by the State Government. In the reply signed by the Acting Secretary of the Emirate Council, Dan Ali reports:

“Since the drama began to unfold, the emir took an unusually long time to respond to the allegations, which he has now dismissed, saying it would have been impossible to misspend \$9.4m because there was only \$6.1m in the accounts when he took over”.

As at the time of writing the crisis is not however the newspaper reported the truce, which is the second since Governor Ganduje came to power. Yusuf Alli reports in *The Nation*:

“THE four-man committee on the feud between Kano State Governor Abdullahi Ganduje and Emir Muhammad Sanusi II has left the fate of the new emirates for the court to decide.

The committee, however, succeeded in persuading the governor to stay action on the ongoing probe of the Emir for alleged N3.4 billion fraud, which Sanusi said was non-existence.

But the Emir has been advised to stop making political comments.

The two parties are expected to continue to explore dialogue on grey areas, which caused the crisis of confidence between them.

These were the highlights of the outcome of the session between the two parties, which was held at Ekiti State Governor Kayode Fayemi's Abuja home.

The meeting was held at Fayemi's home to make it as “private” as possible, according to a source, who said some of those who attended on both sides eventually leaked it in an attempt to outwit each other in the media.

The Nation learnt that the only knotty issue, which the session could not address was what to do with the creation of new emirates.

The Emirates, which were created on May 8, 2019, are Gaya, Rano, Bichi and Karaye.

The House of Assembly on May 8 initiated and passed a bill splitting Kano Emirate into five emirates. But on May 10, a High Court in Kano ordered Ganduje, the Assembly, the Speaker, the Clerk of the Assembly and the Attorney-General from implementing the break-up of the Kano Emirate.

A source privy to the outcome of the peace meeting in Abuja said: “The peace committee did its best to persuade Ganduje to stay action on all disciplinary procedures already put in place, including alleged plans to depose the Emir of Kano.

“The committee also noted that partisan political comments by the Emir aggravated the crisis of confidence with the governor. The Emir has been advised to avoid political comments or any form of partisanship.

“The two sides were further advised to explore more avenues for dialogue in the interest of the state. They both agreed to keep to the terms of the ceasefire.”

Responding to a question, the source added: “The only issue we have not been able to resolve is the creation of four new Emirates because the Emir went to court over it.

“We have decided to allow the court matter to run its full course pending when a political solution will be found to it. If there is no alternative, the court will determine the fate of the Emirates.

“A lot of things are involved in the creation of the new Emirates, including the passage of a bill into law and likely subjudice of the court process. These challenges are not what the committee can adjudicate on.

“But we believe that if there is a new understanding by both parties with all the stakeholders in the state, a solution is possible.”

The source said the committee expected the two parties to stick to the term agreed upon.

“This is not the first time there will be a ceasefire but it was breached. We hope the second intervention will work.

“If there is any further breakdown, no one will be able to help the situation anymore,” the source added (<https://thenationonlineng.net/peace-deal-court-to-determine-fate-of-new-emirates-in-kano/>).

No further comments or conclusions can be made from the crisis until after the court cases. Will Emir Sanusi maintain silence on public issues? Will the Government allow him to continue playing the role of a public intellectual? As noted earlier the Secretary General of the United Nations been recently appointed him one of the 17 Sustainable Development Advocates so will he keep quiet? However Professor Haruna Wakili the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Bayero University has a different opinion:

“You cannot have an intellectual like Emir Sanusi as a leader and expect him to keep

quiet while watching things going wrong. Sanusi is a kind of person that is highly educated, well exposed and by his natural disposition, outspoken as well as controversial. You should not expect him to keep quiet in this kind of situation. "Leaders always like go extra mile to talk to people in power so that there will be reform. So, naturally a kind of Sanusi will never be quiet no matter what. No institution or organization can suppress him to be quiet. And as long leaders want to be relevant to their societies, they must do something to address the problems affecting their people and I think this is what the Emir is doing. Sanusi has no option but to speak out and tell the leaders the truth so that those in power can address the problem. "Sanusi realised that the failure of the society is a failure of the intellectuals and he doesn't want to belong to this group of people and that is why he is always talking. Sanusi has been like that even before he became emir and after becoming emir he has not changed. So, we should learn how to manage him. For me, if those in government think that removing Sanusi from office will suppress him, I think they are wrong.

"That man will be more dangerous outside the circle of government than within."

<https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/5-years-after-ado-bayero-so-many-changes-in-kano-emirate.html>

Three books have been written on him, two when he was appointed *Dan Maje* and another when he was coroneted as Sarkin Kano.



The publication of His Highness include the following:-

“The West and The Rest: Reflections on the Intercultural Dialogue About Shari'ah”, in Ostein, P., Nasir, M. and Kogelmann, F. (eds), *Comparative Perspectives on Shari'ah in Nigeria*, Spectrum Books, Ibadan, 2005.

“Democracy, Rights and Islam: Theory, Epistemology and the Quest for Synthesis”, in Ibrahim, J. (ed), *Sharia Penal and Family Laws in Nigeria and in the Muslim World: Rights Based Approach*, Global Rights, 2004

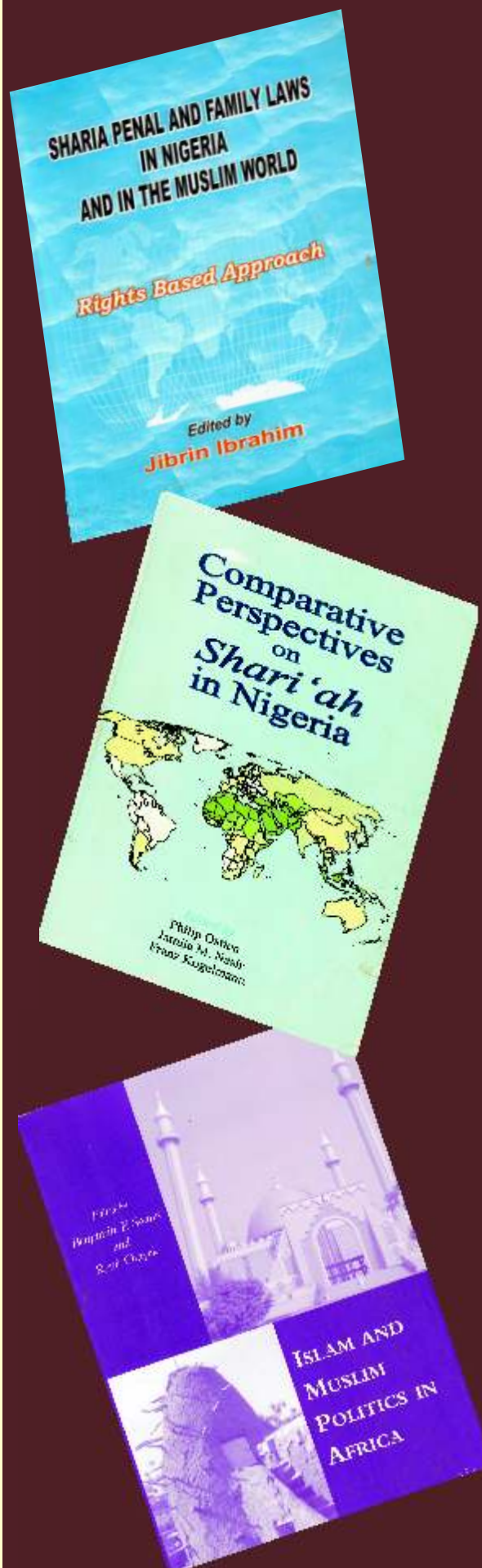
“Muslim Communities in Multi-Religious Milieux: Some Reflections on the Madinan Constitution” in Goethe Institute, Accra, *Conflict: What Has Religion Got to do With It? An African-European Dialogue*, Woeli Publishing Services, Accra, 2004

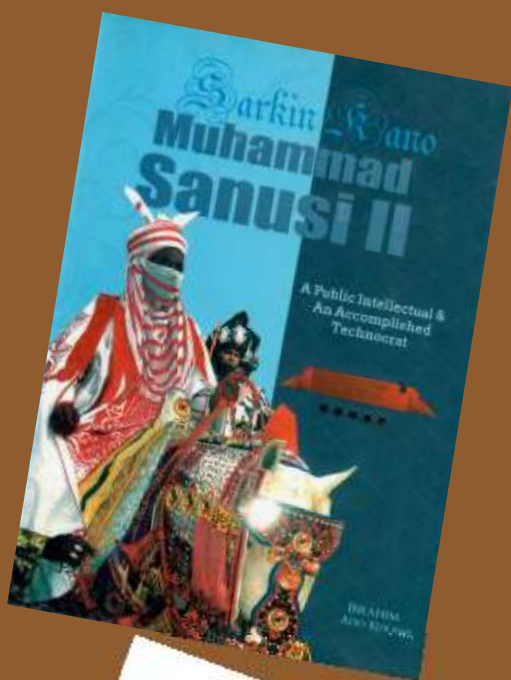
“Shariacracy in Nigeria: The Intellectual Roots of Islamist Discourses”, in Osuntokun, A., *Beyond Abacha: Companion Essays*, Interconsult, Lagos, 2001

“*Politics and Sharia in Northern Nigeria*”, in Soares, B. F. and Otayek, R., *Islam and Muslim Politics in Africa*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2007

“The Shari'ah Debate and the Construction of a 'Muslim' and 'Christian' Identity in Northern Nigeria: A critical Perspective”, Paper, University of Bayreuth, July 11 & 12, 2003

“Islam, Tolerance and Religious Conflict: From Theology to Social Science” Paper, 11th Annual International Law and Religion Symposium, “Religion in the Public Sphere: Challenges and Opportunities”, International Centre for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. October 4, 2004





“Interpretive Communities and Religious Tolerance in Islam: Contextualizing the Construction of Extremist Identities” Paper, International Conference on Religion and Conflict, organized by the University of Notre-Dame at Jinja, Uganda, April, 2004

“The Hudood Punishments in Northern Nigeria: A Muslim Criticism”, Paper, Seminar of the West Africa Study Group, University College, London, January 17, 2003

“The Politicisation of Ontological Questions: Discourses, Subjectivities and Muslim Family Law in Nigeria”, Paper, International Conference on Muslim family Law in Sub-Saharan Africa, Centre for Contemporary Islam, University of Cape Town, South Africa, March 11-14, 2002

“The Class Character of Religious Revival: Shari'ah and Ideology in Northern Nigeria” Paper, Second Essex graduate Conference in Political Theory, University of Essex, Colchester, May 4-5, 2001

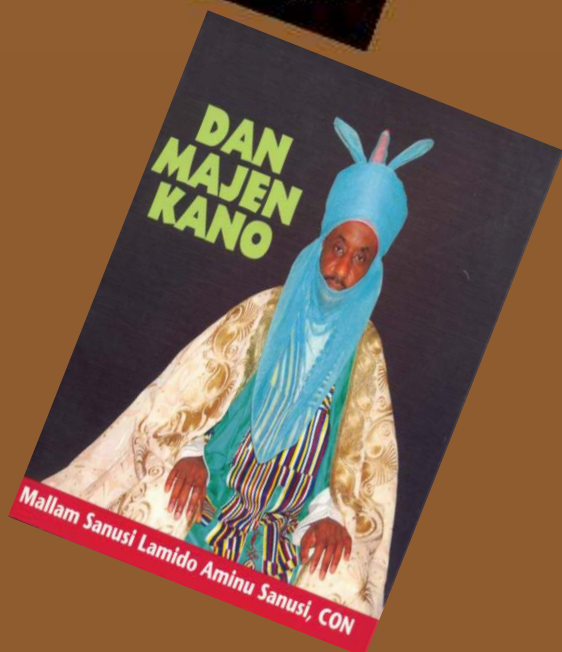
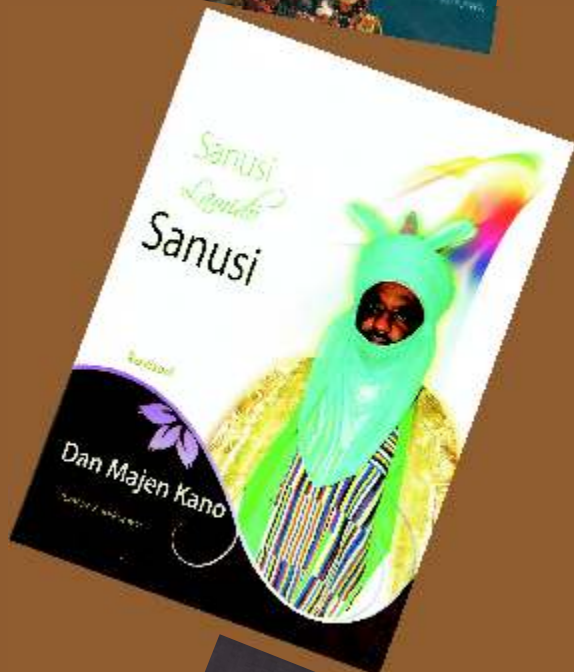
“Islam, Probity and Accountability: A Critical Essay in History, Philosophy and Law”, Paper, Nigerian Television Authority Channel 10 Annual Ramadhan Public Lecture, Nigerian law School, Lagos, December 3, 2003

“Institutional Framework of *Zakat*: Dimensions and Implications”, paper, Symposium on “Essentials for Building an Islamic Ummah” Katuru Road Mosque, Kaduna, Nigeria, December 2, 2000

“An Introduction to Islamic Insurance (Takaful)”, Paper, International Islamic Book fair, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos, Nigeria October 9, 2003

“The Ulama and Mobilization for Economic Empowerment”, Paper, National Roundtable for Poverty Reduction in Nigeria, The Gamji Forum, Kaduna, Nigeria October 24 & 25, 2002

“Transparency and Probity in Nigeria: Confronting our Present with our Past”, Paper, Annual National Conference of the Federation of



Muslim Women's associations of Nigeria (FOMWAN),
Maiduguri, Nigeria, August 27, 2004

“Interaction Between Government and Religious Actors in Peacemaking”, Paper, International Conference on “Mapping the Terrain: The Role of Religion in Diplomacy and Peacemaking” The International Peace Research Institute (PRIO) and Norwegian Foreign Ministry, Oslo, Norway, February 7-9, 2005.

“Kano Political economy: Reflections on a Crisis and its Resolution”, paper, “The Kano Debate”, Mambayya House, Kano, Nigeria, January 1, 2004

“Reforming the Nigerian Economy: Which Model? A Theoretical Critique of Nigerian Economic Policy from 1986-2004”, paper, 2nd Annual Trust Dialogue, Abuja Sheraton hotel, January 13, 2005.

“Issues in Restructuring Corporate Nigeria”, Paper, National Conference on the 1999 Constitution, Organized by Network for Justice and the Vision Trust Foundation, Kaduna, Nigeria, September 11-12, 1999

“Basic Needs and Redistributive Justice in Islam: The Panacea to Poverty in Nigeria”, Paper, 2nd International Seminar on Islamic Banking and Finance, Organized by Ahmed Zakari & Co (Chartered Accountants), Abuja Sheraton hotel, June 30 and July 1, 2001.

“Social Re-Orientation, Private-Public Policy Dialogue and Rebuilding Institutions”, paper, Kano Economic Summit, **KAPEDI**, Kano, April 25-27, 2006.

“The Judicial Office as a Public Trust”, paper, Roundtable commemorating the retirement of Hon. Chief Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais, GCON, Eko Hotel & Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos, June 15, 2006.

Dozens of other articles academic papers on politics, the national question, religion and the economy have been published in various Nigerian newspapers, many of which are available on the internet.

See www.gamji.com/sanusi.htm, and www.nigerdeltacongress.com, among other sites